

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to communications filed on June 4, 2008. Claims 1-11, 13-16 and 18-20 are pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anthony England on July 20, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. A method of retrieving information via a network, comprising:
receiving a phone call initiated by a dialing sequence, wherein the dialing sequence was entered by a caller to make a telephone connection on a telephone of the caller, wherein the dialing sequence includes at least a telephone number;
determining that the phone call includes a request for web-based information, wherein the determining includes detecting meta-information received with the telephone number in the dialing sequence;
determining the web-based information requested, wherein the telephone number in conjunction with any meta-information sent with the telephone call determines the web page requested;

determining a network address of a return response device of the caller, wherein the web-based information is to be returned to the caller at the return response device, and wherein the network address is not associated with the telephone by receiving a network protocol formatted request generated by the telephone nor by receiving a network protocol formatted return address generated by the telephone;

generating a network protocol request for the requested web-based information; and
sending the network protocol request to a network server capable of retrieving the web-based information, wherein sending the network protocol request includes sending the network address to the network server for enabling the network server to forward delivering the retrieved information to the return response device at the network address.

8. A telephone system, comprising:

an automated call handler configured to receive a telephone call from a telephone of a caller and to determine if the telephone call is a request for web-based information,

wherein the automated call handler is further configured to determine that the telephone call is a request for web-based information responsive to detecting meta-information received with a telephone number in a dialing sequence for the received telephone call; and

wherein the telephone number in conjunction with any meta-information sent with the telephone call determines the web page requested;

a web device configured for i) determining web-based information associated with the request and an IP address of a return response device of the caller to which the web-based information is to be returned to the caller, and wherein the IP address is not associated with the

telephone by receiving a network protocol formatted request generated by the telephone nor by receiving a network protocol formatted return address generated by the telephone, and ii) generating an HTTP request for the web-based information;

a web server connected to the web device, the web server being configured to respond to receipt of the HTTP request by retrieving the requested web-based information and sending the retrieved information to the return response device at the IP address.

15. A communication service, comprising:

enabling an automated call handler to detect request for web-based information responsive to receiving a dialing sequence from a caller's telephone, the dialing sequence having at least, a telephone number for making a telephone call connection;

wherein the enabling includes configuring the automated call handler to determine that the telephone call is a request for web-based information responsive to detecting meta-information received with a telephone number in the received dialing sequence; and

wherein the telephone number in conjunction with any meta-information sent with the telephone call determines the web page requested;

enabling an IP address sending device connected to the caller's telephone to determine an IP address of a web-connected return response device of the caller, the return response device being physically independent of the caller's telephone; and

enabling the call handler to respond to receipt of the telephone call by generating an HTTP request for the web-based information and sending the request to a web server containing the web-based information.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-11, 13-16 and 18-20 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims are considered allowable when reading the claims none of the references of record alone or in combination, in light of the specification, disclose or suggest the combination limitations specified in the independent claims including determining that the phone call includes a request for web-based information by detecting meta-information received with the telephone number in the dialing sequence, and the telephone number in conjunction with any meta-information sent with the telephone call determines the web page requested.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Van Kim T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3073. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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